

1. (Amended) A retaining wall block having parallel top and bottom faces, a front face, a rear face, first and second side wall faces and a vertical plane of symmetry extending between the front and rear faces, the block comprising:

a body portion including the front face,

a head portion including the rear face,

a neck portion connecting the body portion and the head portion, the body, head and neck portions each extending between the top and bottom faces and between the first and second side wall faces,

an opening extending through the neck portion from the top face to the bottom face, the opening dividing the neck portion into first and second neck wall members extending rearwardly from the body portion to the head portion,

first and second pin holes each disposed in the body portion and opening onto the top face, the first and second pin holes being configured for receiving a pin with a free end of the pin protruding beyond the top face,

first and second pin receiving cavities each disposed in the body portion and opening onto the bottom face, the first and second pin receiving cavities being configured for receiving the free end of a pin received in a pin hole of an adjacent block disposed therebeneath so as to interlock the blocks with a predetermined setback,

wherein the neck wall members, the pin holes and the pin receiving cavities are positioned such that a first plane extending parallel to the plane of symmetry passes through the first pin receiving cavity, the first pin hole and the first neck wall member and a second plane extending parallel to the plane of symmetry passes through the second pin receiving cavity, the second pin hole and the second neck wall member.

92 5. (Amended) The retaining wall block of claim 1 wherein the block further comprises third and fourth pin holes each disposed in the body portion and opening onto the top face, the third and fourth pin holes being configured for receiving a pin with a free end of the pin protruding beyond the top face, the third and fourth pin holes being disposed on the first and second planes forward of the first and second pin holes so as to provide a reduced or zero predetermined setback.

8. (Amended) A retaining wall comprising at least one lower course and at least one upper course, each course comprising a plurality of blocks [formed of a plurality of courses of retaining wall blocks according to claim 1] laid in a running bond pattern,

93 each block having parallel top and bottom faces, a front face, a rear face, first and second side wall faces and a vertical plane of symmetry extending between the front and rear faces, the block comprising:

a body portion including the front face,

a head portion including the rear face,

a neck portion connecting the body portion and the head portion, the body, head and neck portions each extending between the top and bottom faces and between the first and second side wall faces,

an opening extending through the neck portion from the top face to the bottom face, the opening dividing the neck portion into first and second neck wall members extending rearwardly from the body portion to the head portion,

first and second pin holes each disposed in the body portion and opening onto the top face, the first and second pin holes being configured for receiving a pin with a free end of the pin protruding beyond the top face,

first and second pin receiving cavities each disposed in the body portion and opening onto the bottom face, the first and second pin receiving cavities being configured for receiving the free end of a pin received in a pin hole of an adjacent block disposed in the block in the lower course so as to interlock the blocks with a predetermined setback,

wherein the neck wall members, the pin holes and the pin receiving cavities are positioned such that a first plane extending parallel to the plane of symmetry passes through the first pin receiving cavity, the first pin hole and the first neck wall member and a second plane extending parallel to the plane of symmetry passes through the second pin receiving cavity, the second pin hole and the second neck wall member;

AB [blocks of a given course each having a pair of pins each projecting beyond the top surface of the block and engaging the pin receiving cavity of a vertically adjacent the block in the next lowermost course,] first and second pins disposed in the first and second pin holes, respectively, of a block in the lower course, the first pin having a first free end protruding beyond the top face of the block, the second pin having a second free end protruding beyond the top face of the block, the first free end being received in a pin receiving cavity of a first block in the upper course, the second free end being received in a pin receiving cavity of a second block in the upper course, a continuous cavity being defined by each [the] opening of vertically aligned blocks in [every second] the upper course of the blocks communicating with side voids of vertically adjacent blocks in [each alternate] the lower course,